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**TRIBE DONATES \$50,000 TO ASSIST TRIBAL NATION WITH WILDFIRE RECOVERY**

**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Responds to Shoshone-Paiute Nation Call for Assistance in Wake of Murphy Complex Fire**

**SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION, July 30, 2007 (Highland, Calif.)** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced today a \$50,000 contribution to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation to aid in their recovery from the recent, devastating Murphy Complex Fire.

All of the approximately 1,700 members of the tribe were affected by fire, which cause a wide-spread electrical power outage throughout the 289,820 acre reservation straddling the Nevada-Idaho border.

“Wildfire is a danger that we are well aware of here in San Bernardino County”, said Chairman Henry Duro of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, “When we heard of the conditions that our brothers and sisters from the Duck Valley Reservation were having to endure, our first thought was, ‘How can we help.’”

The Duck Valley Reservation was established in 1877 and is located on the Idaho-Nevada border with approximately half of the land area in each state. To date the Murphy Complex Fire has consumed 653,100 acres, causing a power outage for the entire Duck Valley Reservation. Recent reports indicate that the fire is about 98% contained.

**About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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